25th session of SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting in Islamabad in July, 2004 for a High Economic Council to deliberate on economic, trade, investment, fiscal and monetary issues associated with regional economic integration, an Infrastructure Fund to finance large projects to improve cross-border communications and infrastructure, including ports and energy. India has also proposed a SAARC Centre for Disaster Management to be set up within the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi, which can serve as a SAARC Regional Training Centre and provide early warning and response for disaster prevention and mitigation.

(c) Agreements on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, and Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters are expected to be signed at the 13th Summit.

Demarcation of Indo-Bangla Border

2542. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that portions of Indo-Bangla border is yet to be demarcated;

(b) whether it would affect the proposed exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh;

(c) what progress has been made, so far, in this regard;

(d) what remains the major obstacle; and

(e) whether Government have set any time-frame for the exchange of enclaves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. 6.1 Kms of the international border between India and Bangladesh is yet to be demarcated.

(b) No Sir, this would not affect the proposed exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh, though both are prerequisites for ratification of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement between the two countries.

(c) and (d) The Governments of India and Bangladesh have set up two Joint Boundary Working Groups to resolve all pending issues relating to the implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 including

exchange of enclaves. Two meetings of the Joint Boundary Working Groups have been held in July 2001 and March 2002. During the 2nd meeting of the Joint Boundary working Group in March 2002 in New Delhi, we had offered a composite package to Bangladesh for the settlement of the pending boundary demarcation. The response of the Bangladesh Government is awaited.

(e) No time frame has been set for the exchange of enclaves.

Proliferation Security Initiative

2543. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are keen for a deeper examination of US backed Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) considering WMD proliferation by sea as one of the security threat to the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any formal agreement or arrangement has been finalised in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The US announced the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) in May 2003 to prevent trafficking in Weapons of Mass Destruction and related technology through interdiction efforts. It is intended to work through information sharing, trans-shipment controls, boarding and over-flight agreement, and export control. 17 countries are members of the PSI including Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Noway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, the UK and the US. A "Statement of Interdiction Principles" was adopted in September 2003, which elaborates measures to be adopted to combat the threat of WMD proliferation from States or non-State actors of proliferation concern.

(c) No, Sir. There has been no formal invitation to India to join the PSI so far.